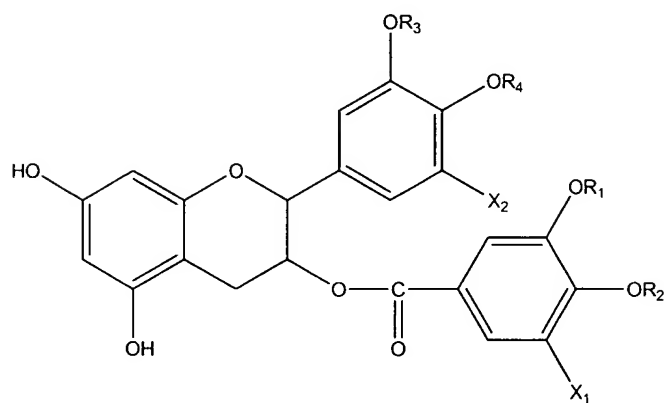


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Original) A functional beverage containing an O-methylated catechin expressed by the chemical formula (1) shown below, wherein the functional beverage contains the O-methylated catechin in a quantity of active ingredient as an allergic rhinitis-suppressing drug, a lipid-lowering drug and a gallbladder/liver function-improving drug.



• • Chemical formula (1)

[in which R1, R2, R3 and R4 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X1 and X2 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.]

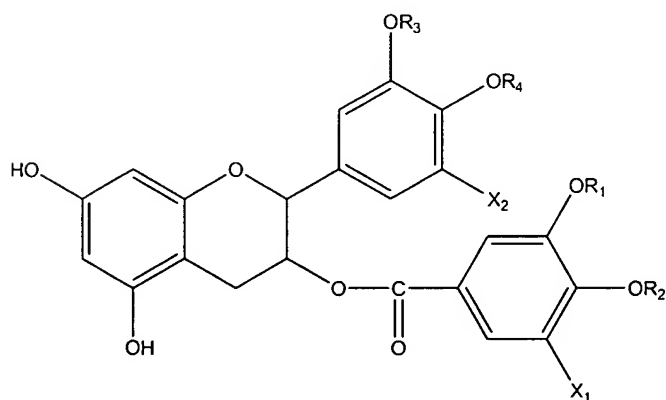
2. (Original) The functional beverage according to claim 1, wherein the functional beverage is produced by extracting tea leaves.
3. (Currently amended) The functional beverage according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the functional beverage contains the O-methylated catechin in an amount of 1 mg to 30 mg per 100

ml of the beverage.

4. (Currently amended) The functional beverage according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to 3, wherein the O-methylated catechin is derived from one selected from the group consisting of “Benifuuki”, “Benifuji”, “Benihomare”, “Yaeho”, “Surugawase”, “Yutakamidori”, “Kanayamidori”, “Okumusashi”, “Seishin-taipan”, “Seishin-oolong”, “Ohba-oolong”, “Benibana”, “Benihikari”, “Yamakai”, “Yamamidori”, “Karabeni”, “Koushun”, “Souhuu”, “Okumidori” and mixtures thereof.

5. (Currently amended) The functional beverage according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 to [[4]], wherein the functional beverage is labeled to be effective for at least one of suppressing allergic rhinitis and effective for improving hyperlipemia and gallbladder/liver function.

6. (Original) A composition containing an O-methylated catechin expressed by the chemical formula (1) shown below, wherein the composition contains the O-methylated catechin in a constitutive effective amount as an allergic rhinitis-suppressing drug and a lipid-lowering drug.



• • Chemical formula (1)

[in which R1, R2, R3 and R4 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, X1 and X2 are each independently a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group.]

7. (Original) The composition according to claim 6, wherein the composition is a food/beverage, internal medicine, liniment, nose wash, nose drops, cosmetic or eye wash.